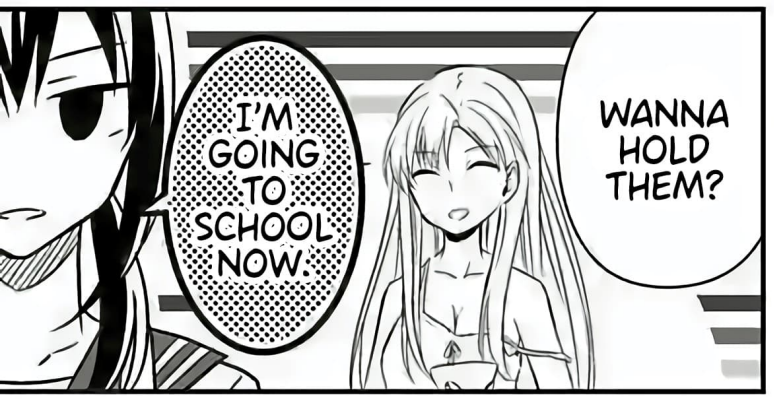
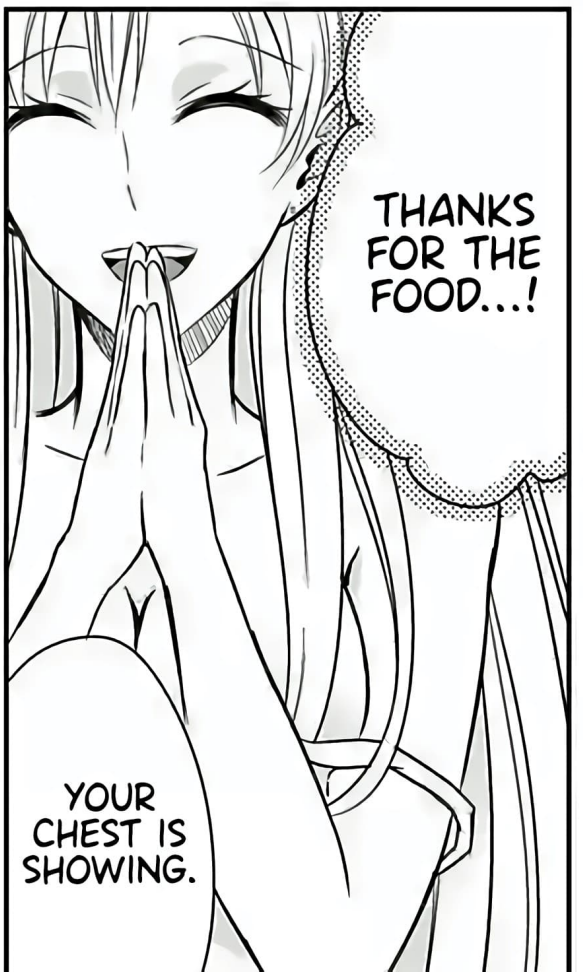
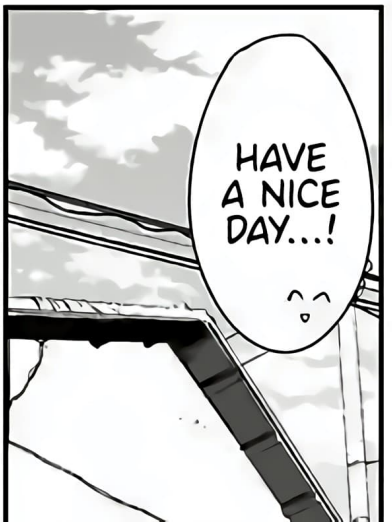
HMM ...
RING
RING
DROWSY
TOUCH
RING
RING
HUH?
THE ALARM CLOCK ...
ZZZ
I NEED ...
TO MAKE BREAK-FAST.
OH.
MORNIN' NORA.
THAT'S RIGHT...
MEOW
!!?
MEOW

MM... DELICIOUS! TODAY'S GOING TO BE A GOOD DAY!
I'M GOING NOW. BE SURE TO LOCK THE DOOR ON YOUR WAY OUT.
I'LL WASH THE DISHES LATER.
OKAY.
I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE HER HERE ALONE.
TSUKASA,
HAVE A LOVELY DAY!

STARTING NOW, EVERY DAY...



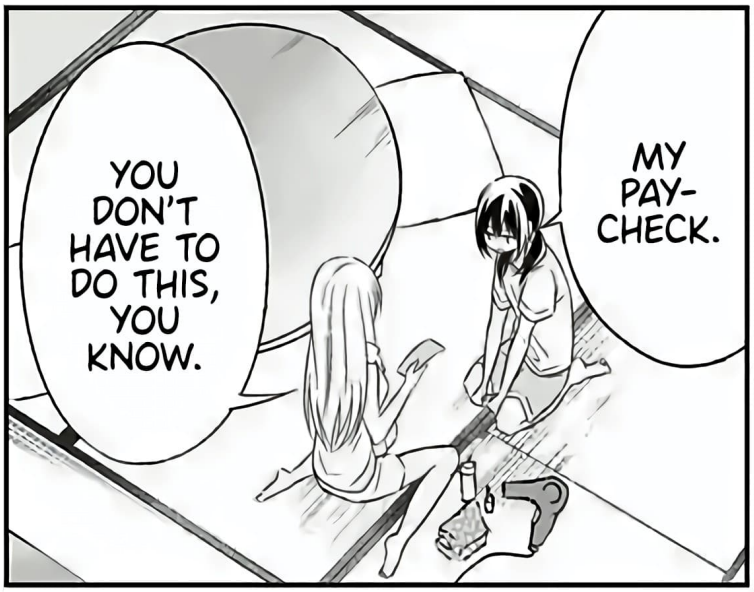




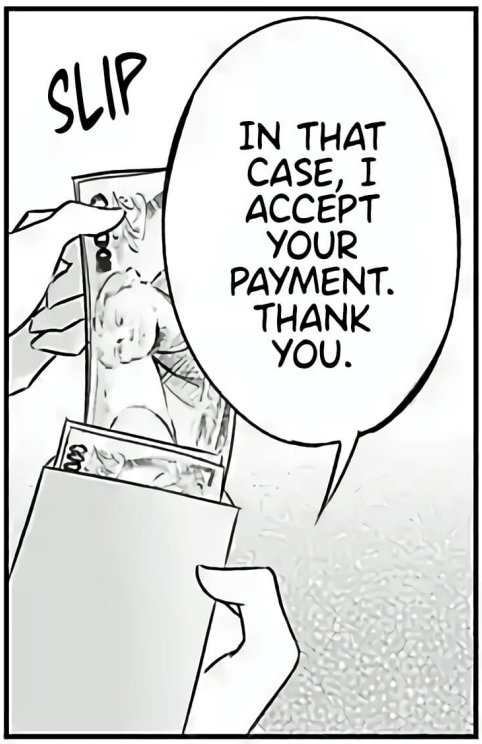
I'M BACK!
IT SMELLS GOOD.
ARE YOU GOING TO EAT OR TAKE A BATH FIRST?
I'M GONNA EAT!
GOT IT.
IT TURNED TO SOMETHING OF A WEIRD RELATIONSHIP...
EXCHANGING GOOD MORNINGS AND GOOD NIGHTS EVERY DAY.
WHAT'S THAT?
CLOTHES AND OTHER PERSONAL BELONGINGS.
...
THOUGH I CAN'T GET USED TO SLEEPING NEXT TO HER...

A WEEK HAS GONE BY SINCE REIKO STARTED LIVING WITH ME.
GOOD MORNING TSUKASA ...
MORNIN', KANNA.
PUTTING REIKO ASIDE...
MY DAYS HAVEN'T CHANGED THAT MUCH.
DID YOU WRITE THE REPORT?
SOME-WHAT.
SO, I PICKED UP AN EXTRA SHIFT IN BETWEEN THE WEEK.
YET FOR SOME REASON I WASN'T CONTENT WITH THAT...
NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THIS DOESN'T FEEL LIKE SOMEONE DEEP IN DEBT!
IT MAKES ME ANXIOUS.

SLIDE


YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS, YOU KNOW.
MY PAY-CHECK.

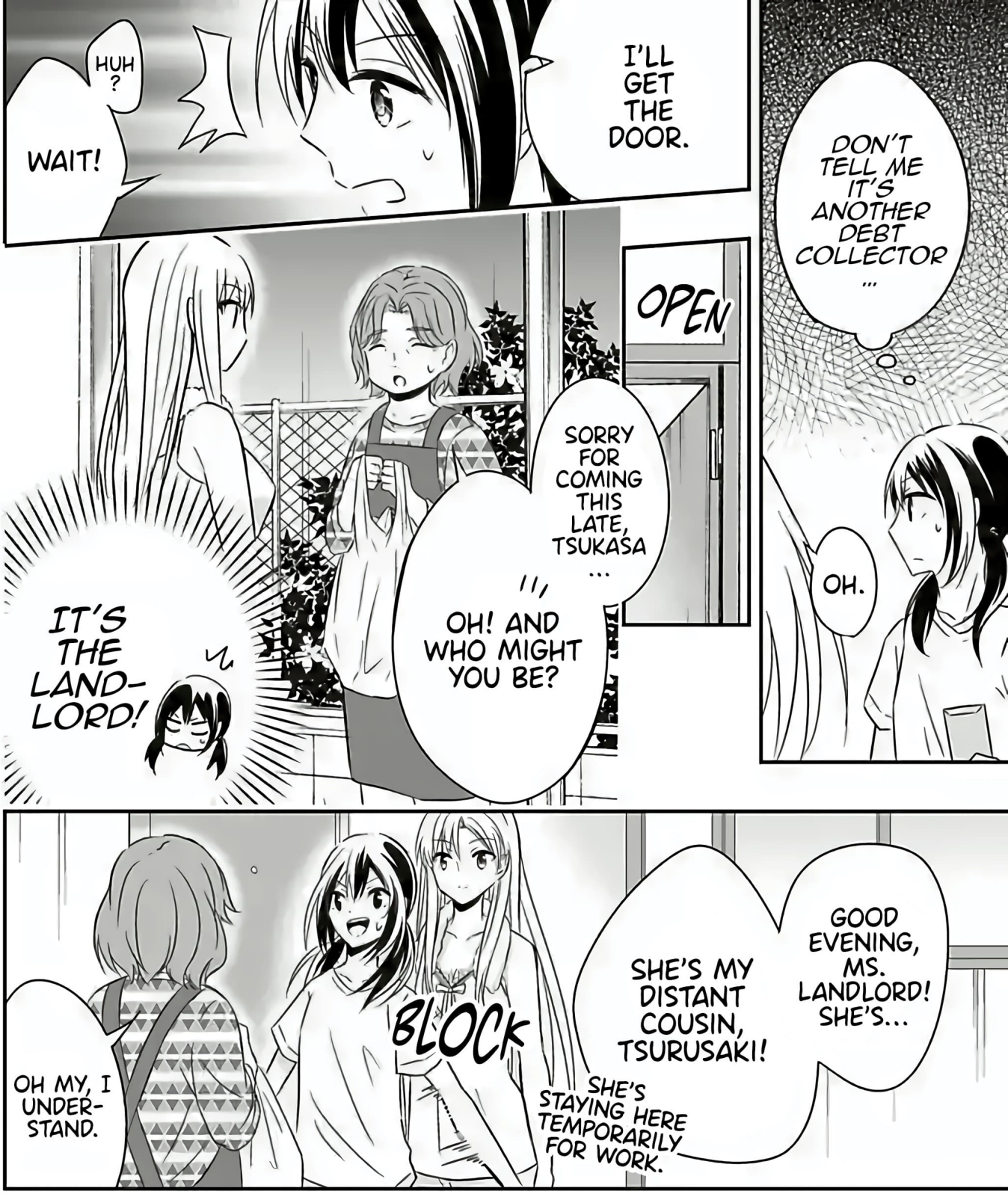
WHAT'S THIS?

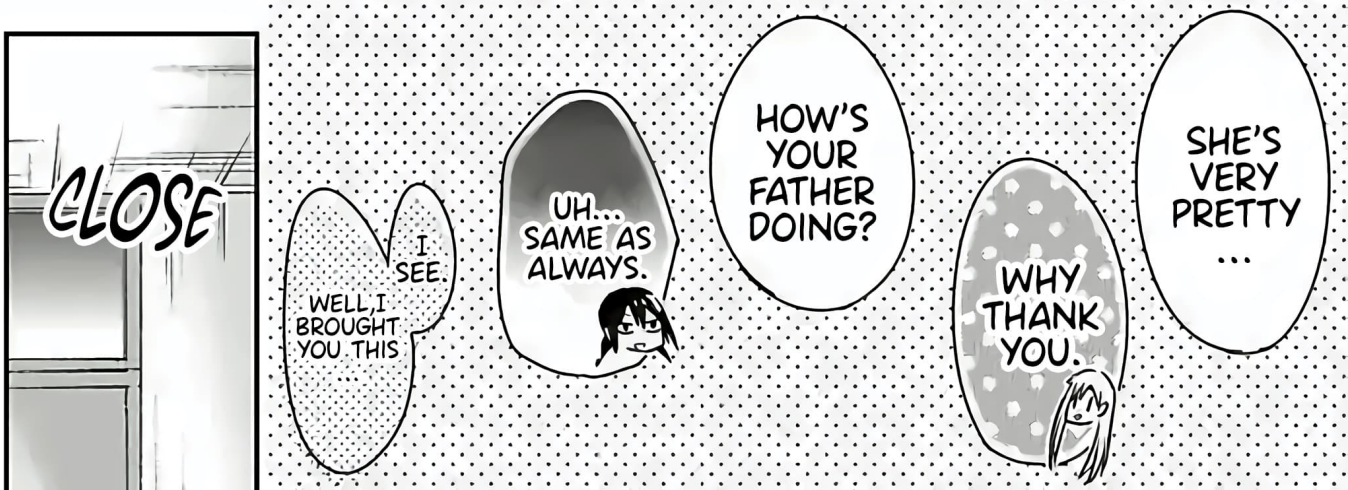

SLIP
IN THAT CASE, I ACCEPT YOUR PAYMENT. THANK YOU.

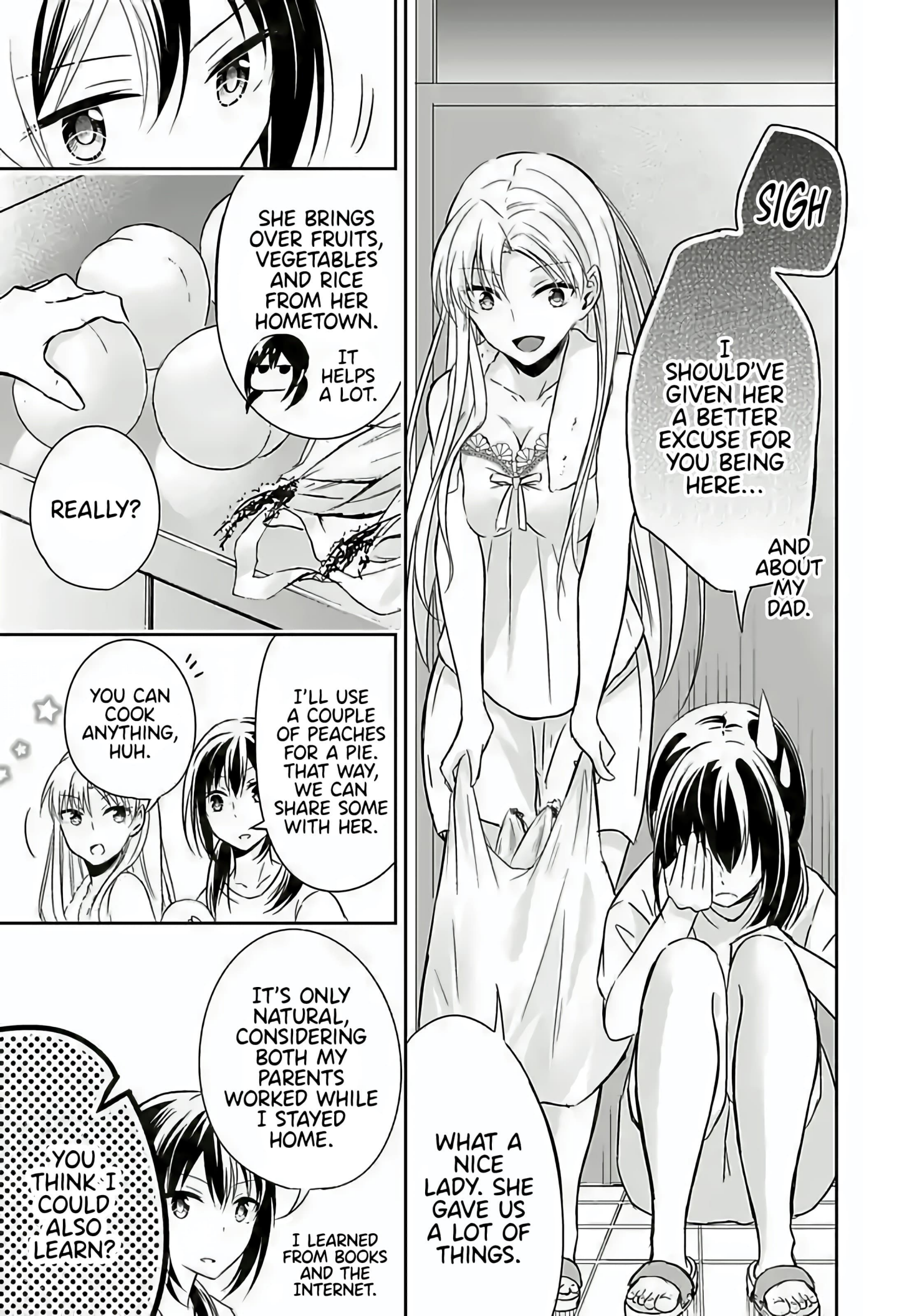
I'M NOT OKAY WITH IT.
...

I DON'T FEEL OKAY
LETTING YOU PAY RENT AND DAILY EXPENSES.

HERE.
HUH?
I SAID YOU'D PAY ME WITH YOUR BODY,
SO THERE'S NO NEED TO GIVE ME MONEY THAT YOU'VE WORKED FOR ALREADY.
BUT...
STUDENTS SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON STUDYING AND HAVING FUN, RIGHT?
...IN THAT CASE, I'LL TAKE THIS AS A LOAN.
THANK YOU.
YOU'RE THAT SERIOUS, HUH.
WELL, CONSIDERING YOUR SITUATION, I SUPPOSE IT'S A NORMAL REACTION.
...
DING DONG

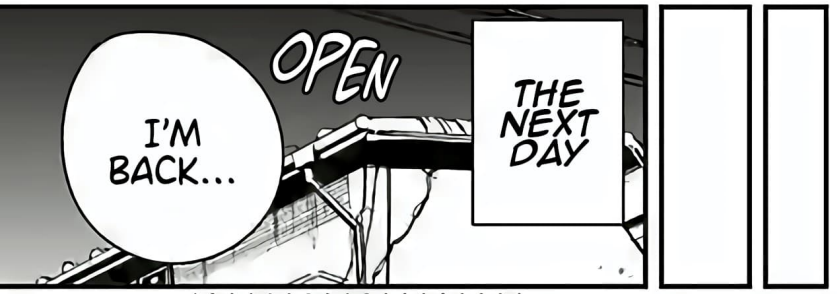

I'LL GET THE DOOR.
HUH?
WAIT!
DON'T TELL ME IT'S ANOTHER DEBT COLLECTOR...
OH.
OPEN
SORRY FOR COMING THIS LATE, TSUKASA...
OH! AND WHO MIGHT YOU BE?
IT'S THE LAND-LORD!
GOOD EVENING, MS. LANDLORD! SHE'S...
SHE'S MY DISTANT COUSIN, TSURUSAKI!
SHE'S STAYING HERE TEMPORARILY FOR WORK.
OH MY, I UNDER-STAND.
BLOCK


SHE'S VERY PRETTY...
WHY THANK YOU.
HOW'S YOUR FATHER DOING?
UH... SAME AS ALWAYS.
I SEE.
WELL, I BROUGHT YOU THIS
CLOSE

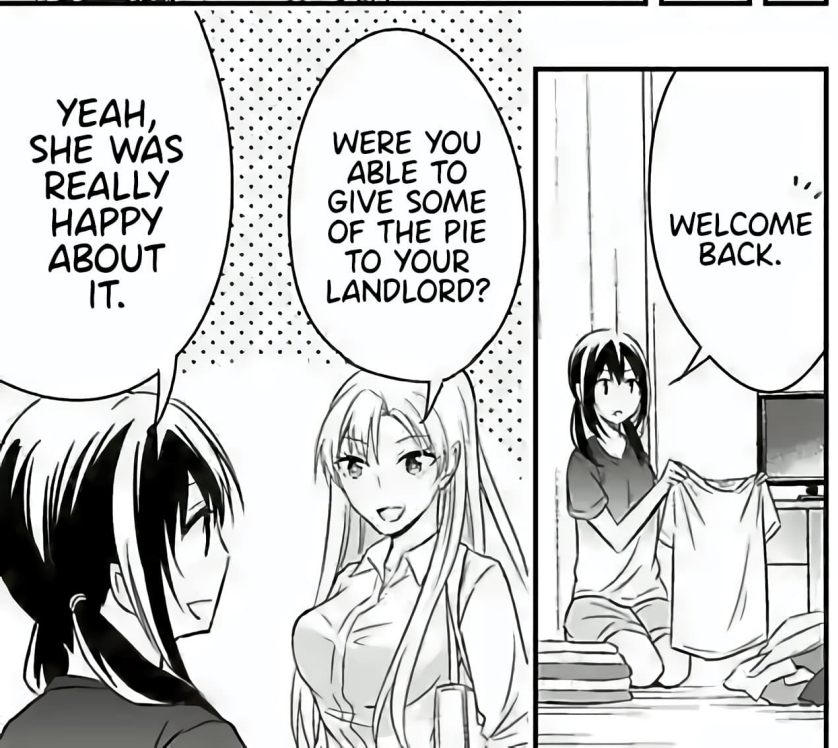

SIGH
I SHOULD'VE GIVEN HER A BETTER EXCUSE FOR YOU BEING HERE...
AND ABOUT MY DAD.
WHAT A NICE LADY. SHE GAVE US A LOT OF THINGS.
SHE BRINGS OVER FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND RICE FROM HER HOMETOWN.
IT HELPS A LOT.
REALLY?
I'LL USE A COUPLE OF PEACHES FOR A PIE. THAT WAY, WE CAN SHARE SOME WITH HER.
YOU CAN COOK ANYTHING, HUH.
IT'S ONLY NATURAL, CONSIDERING BOTH MY PARENTS WORKED WHILE I STAYED HOME.
I LEARNED FROM BOOKS AND THE INTERNET.
YOU THINK I COULD ALSO LEARN?

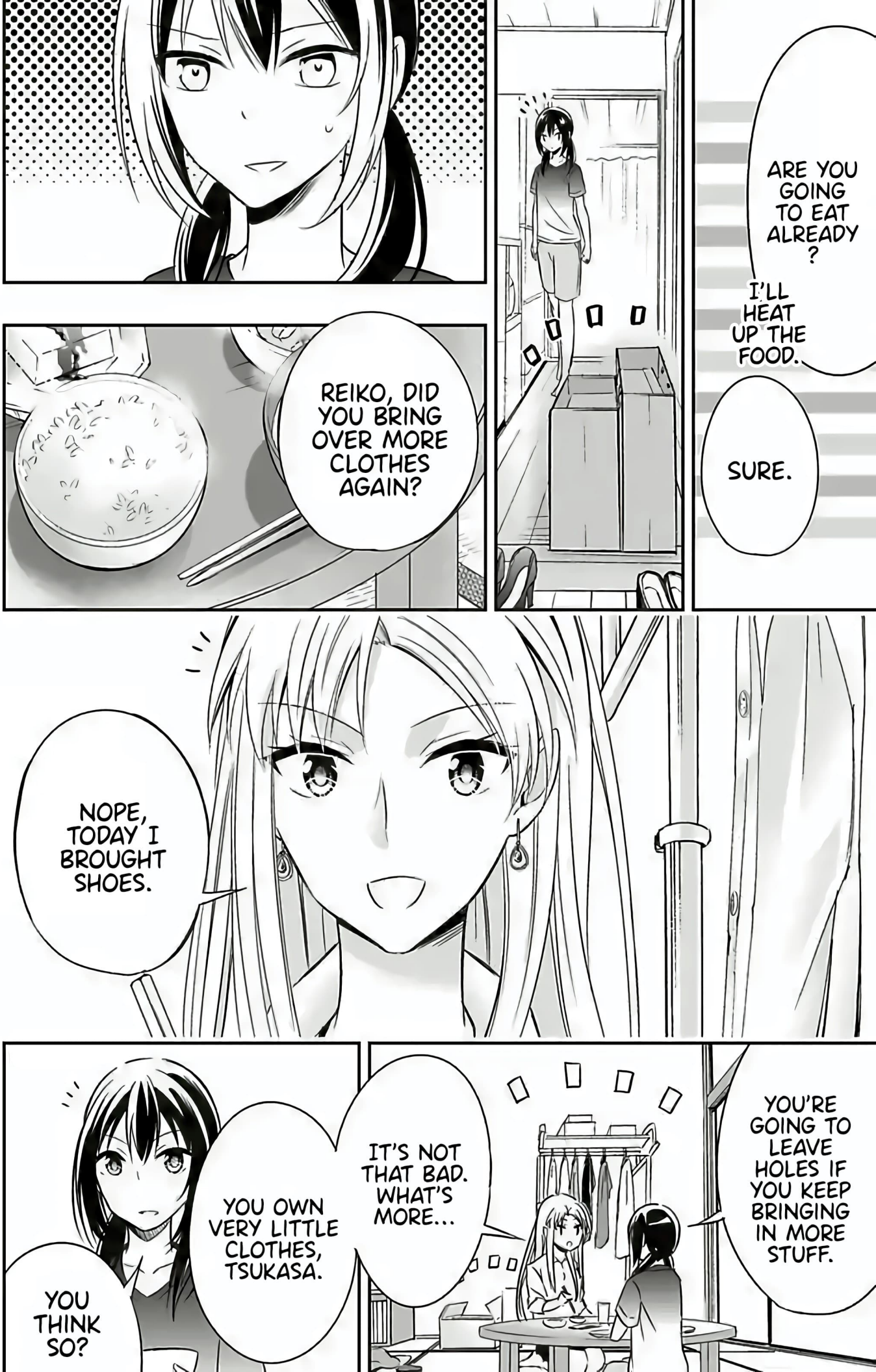
WHAT?
WOW!
I DON'T QUITE GET...
WHAT REIKO'S PLAN IS.
...DO YOU WANT TO TRY IT?
MM...!♡

...
WHAT AM I DOING?
YOU CAN BECOME A TOP CHEF, TSUKASA.
THE PERSON BESIDE ME IS A DEBT COLLECTOR.


OPEN
I'M BACK...
THE NEXT DAY

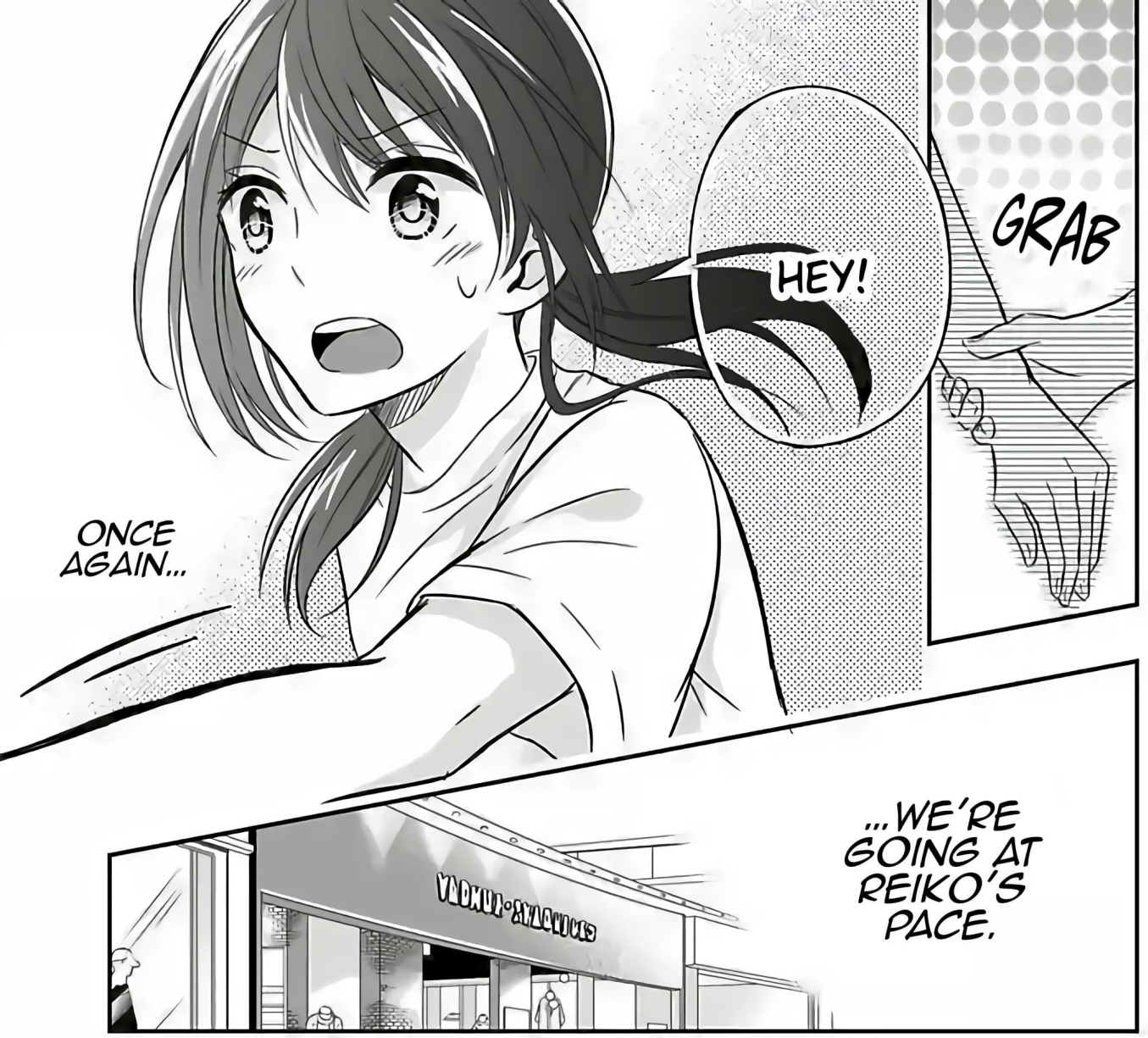
IT'S STRANGE.

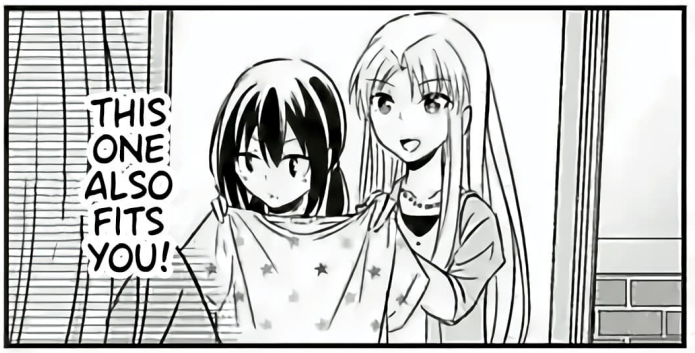

YEAH, SHE WAS REALLY HAPPY ABOUT IT.
WERE YOU ABLE TO GIVE SOME OF THE PIE TO YOUR LANDLORD?
WELCOME BACK.
IT'S LATE ALREADY.
I THINK I'LL HAVE ANOTHER BITE.

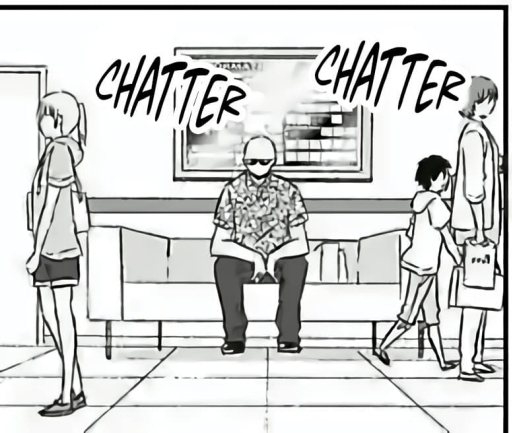

ARE YOU GOING TO EAT ALREADY?
I'LL HEAT UP THE FOOD.
SURE.
REIKO, DID YOU BRING OVER MORE CLOTHES AGAIN?
NOPE, TODAY I BROUGHT SHOES.
YOU'RE GOING TO LEAVE HOLES IF YOU KEEP BRINGING IN MORE STUFF.
IT'S NOT THAT BAD. WHAT'S MORE...
YOU OWN VERY LITTLE CLOTHES, TSUKASA.
YOU THINK SO?

PLEASE STOP! THAT'S MY UNDER-WEAR!
HOLD
YEAH, THE ONES YOU HAVE ARE WAY TOO PLAIN.
SNATCH
FOR WHO?
THIS REALLY KILLS THE MOOD, YOU KNOW.
I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT COMING FROM SOMEONE WHOSE PANTIES LOOK LIKE STRINGS.
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE PLAIN IS BAD OR ANYTHING, BUT...
OOH, I KNOW! LET'S GO SHOPPING THIS SUNDAY!
BUT I SAID THAT I WOULDN'T SPEND MY PAYCHECK.

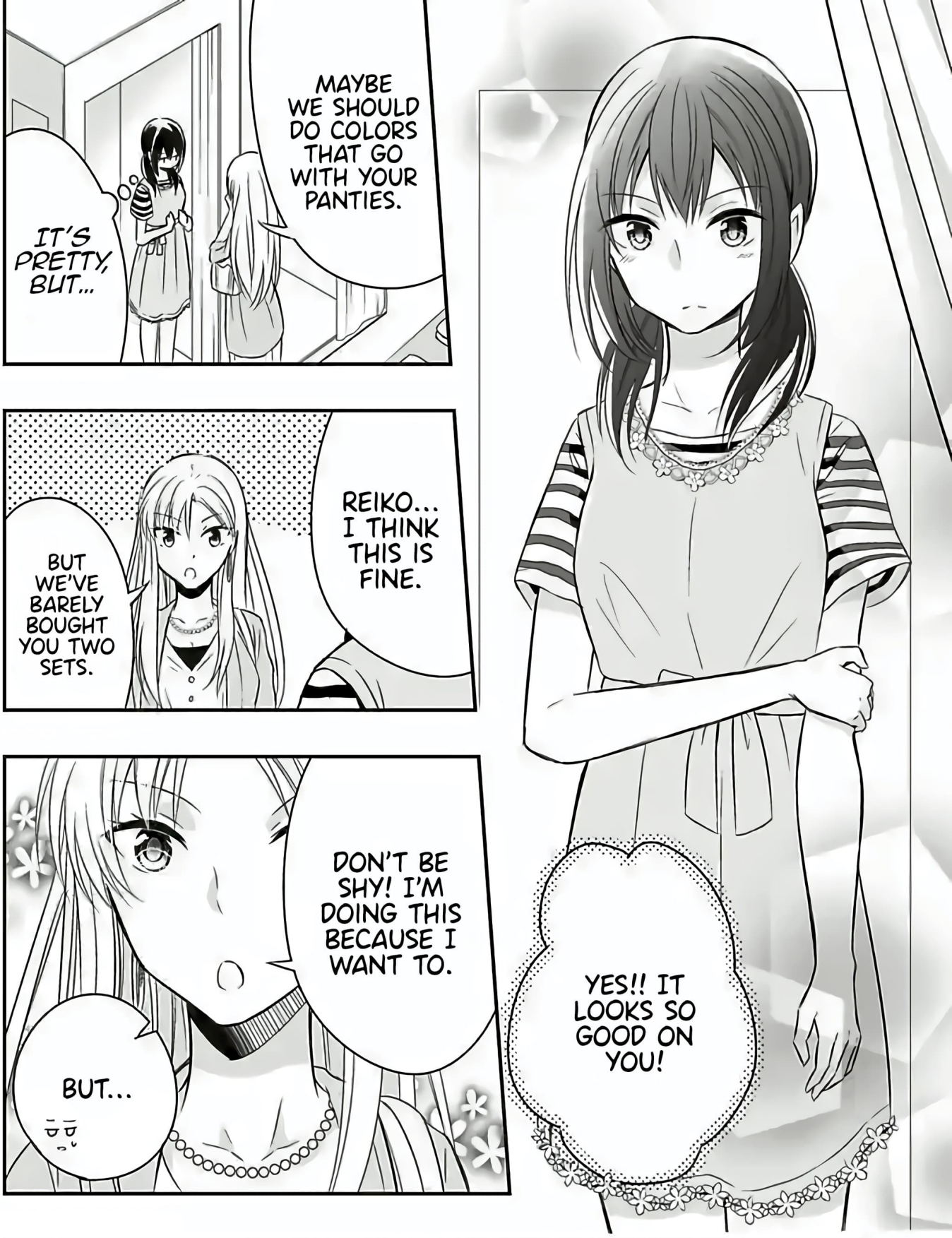
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'LL TREAT YOU!
HMM...
OKAY, LET'S GO SHOPPING!
STOIC
...REIKO REQUESTED IT, SO IT'S NOT A PROBLEM.
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU DRIVE US HERE ON YOUR DAY OFF.
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? C'MON!


GRAB
HEY!
ONCE AGAIN...
...WE'RE GOING AT REIKO'S PACE.

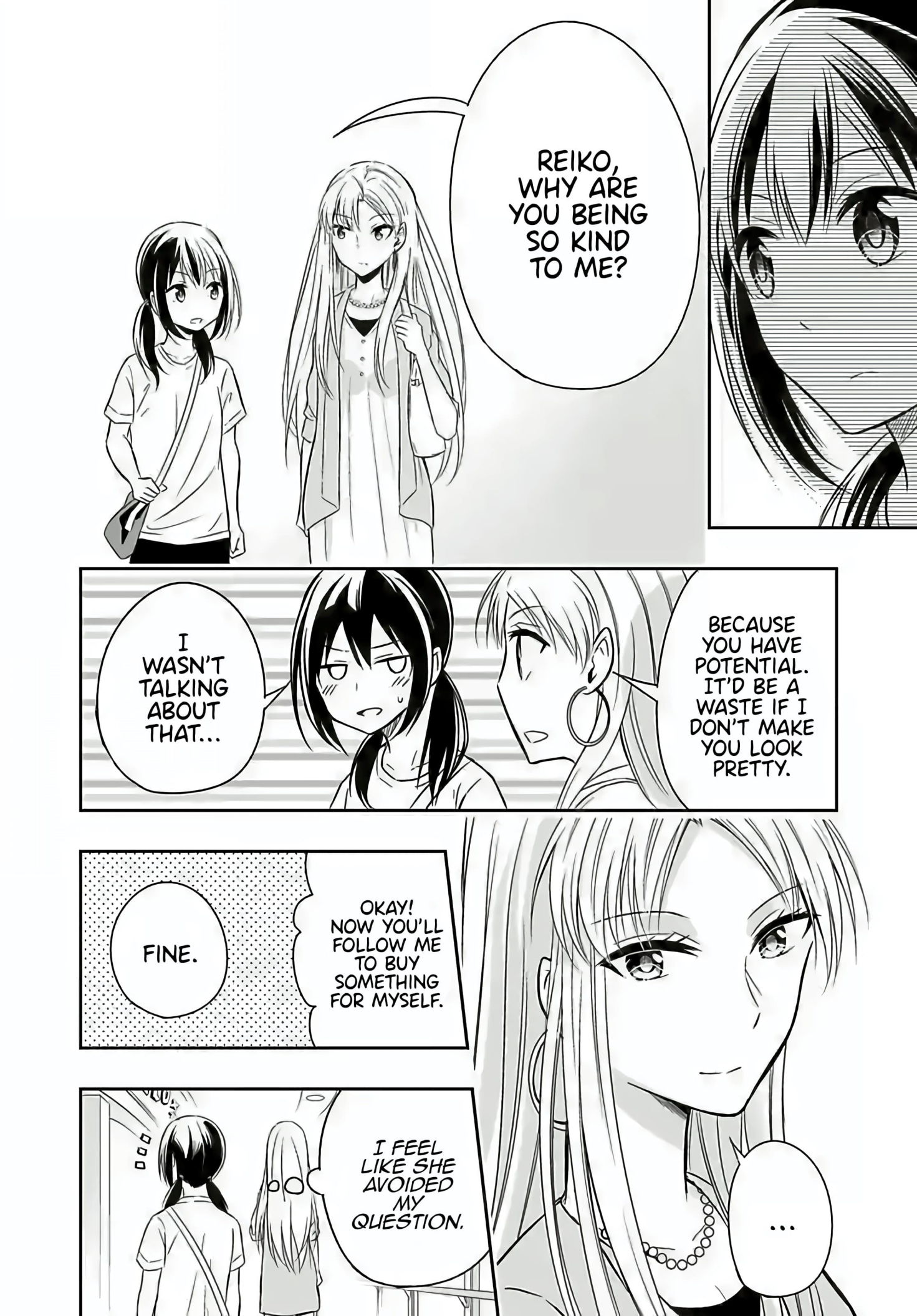

THIS ONE ALSO FITS YOU!

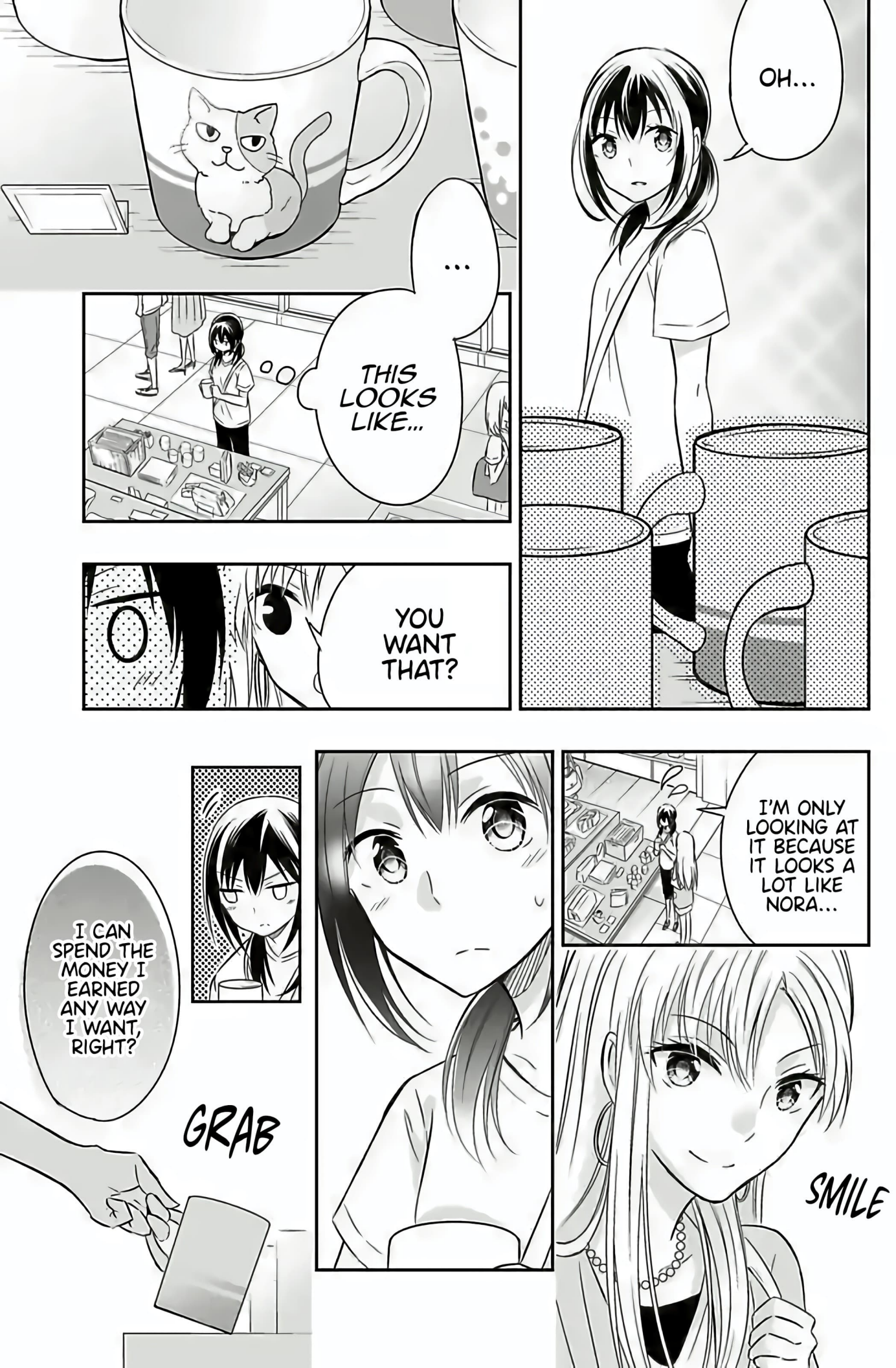

CHATTER
CHATTER

THAT'LL BE XXX DOLLARS.


MAYBE WE SHOULD DO COLORS THAT GO WITH YOUR PANTIES.
IT'S PRETTY, BUT...
REIKO... I THINK THIS IS FINE.
BUT WE'VE BARELY BOUGHT YOU TWO SETS.
DON'T BE SHY! I'M DOING THIS BECAUSE I WANT TO.
BUT...
YES!! IT LOOKS SO GOOD ON YOU!
YOU DON'T LIKE THEM?
THAT'S NOT IT... THEY'RE PRETTY.
THEN?

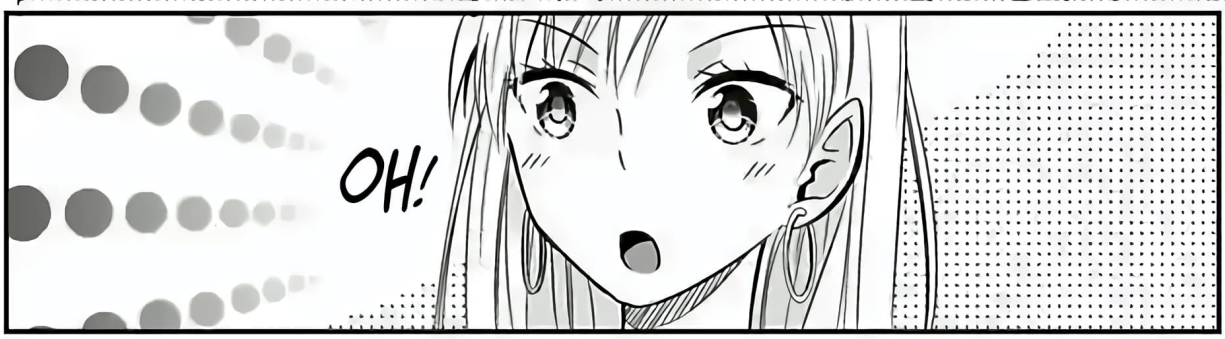
SCOLD
THERE'S NO FREAKIN' POINT IN BUYING THEM FOR YOU IF YOU'RE NOT HAPPY!
WHAT?
...
EVEN IF SHE SAYS THAT...
WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER.
...
BEING OPEN WITH ANOTHER PERSON...
HAVING HER PAMPER ME, OR ME TRUSTING HER...
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO ANY OF THAT.
LET ALONE FOR SOMEONE I OWE MONEY TO.

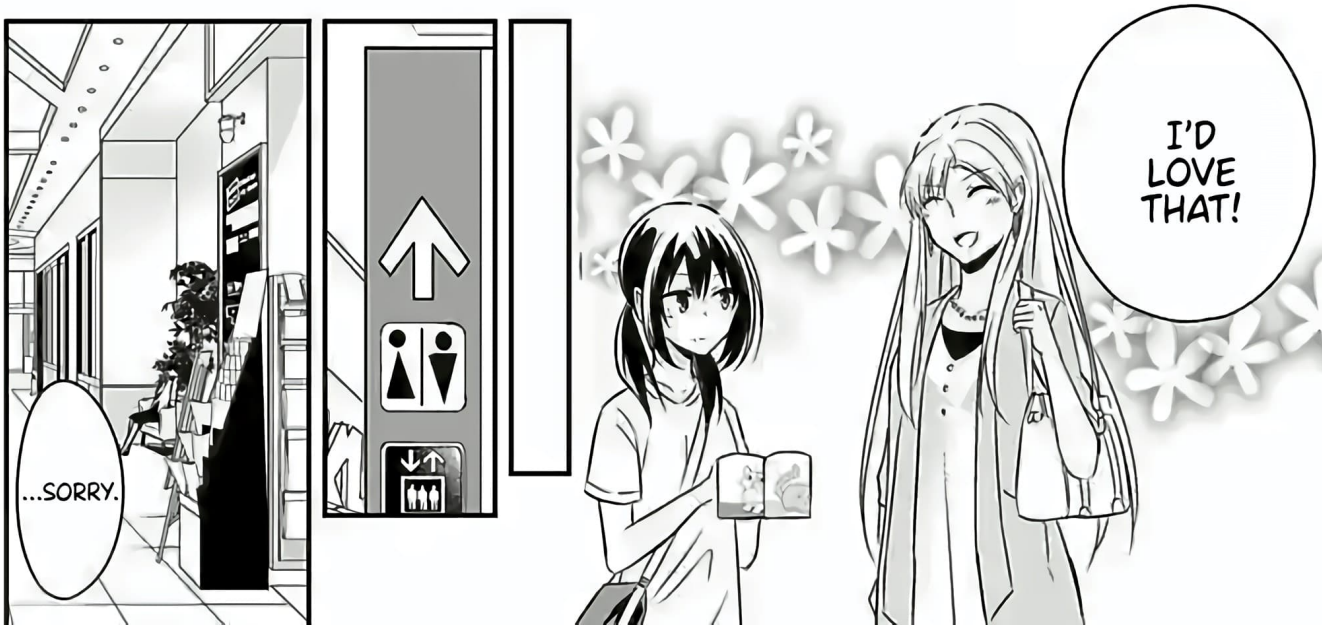

REIKO, WHY ARE YOU BEING SO KIND TO ME?
BECAUSE YOU HAVE POTENTIAL. IT'D BE A WASTE IF I DON'T MAKE YOU LOOK PRETTY.
I WASN'T TALKING ABOUT THAT...
OKAY! NOW YOU'LL FOLLOW ME TO BUY SOMETHING FOR MYSELF.
FINE.
...
I FEEL LIKE SHE AVOIDED MY QUESTION.


OH...
...
THIS LOOKS LIKE...
YOU WANT THAT?
I'M ONLY LOOKING AT IT BECAUSE IT LOOKS A LOT LIKE NORA...
I CAN SPEND THE MONEY I EARNED ANY WAY I WANT, RIGHT?
GRAB
SMILE

THEN, I'LL GET TWO OF THESE...
AND GIVE YOU ONE.

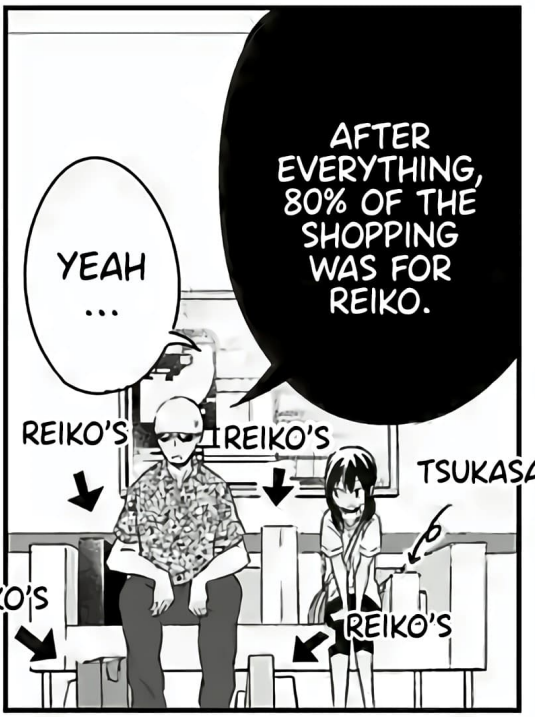
THEY ...
THEY'RE MATCHING.
...WHAT DO YOU THINK?

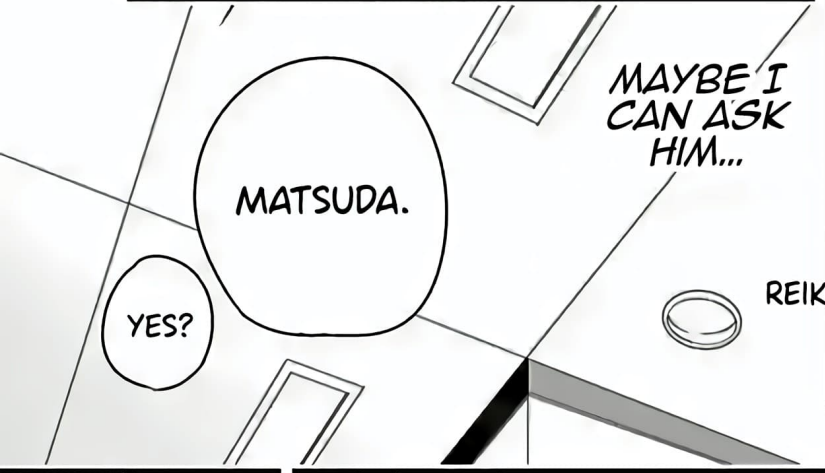

OH!

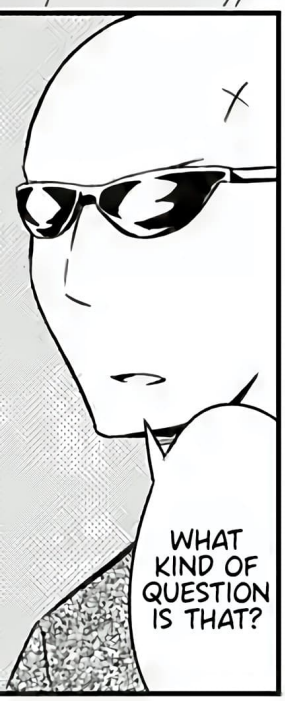

I'D LOVE THAT!
...SORRY.

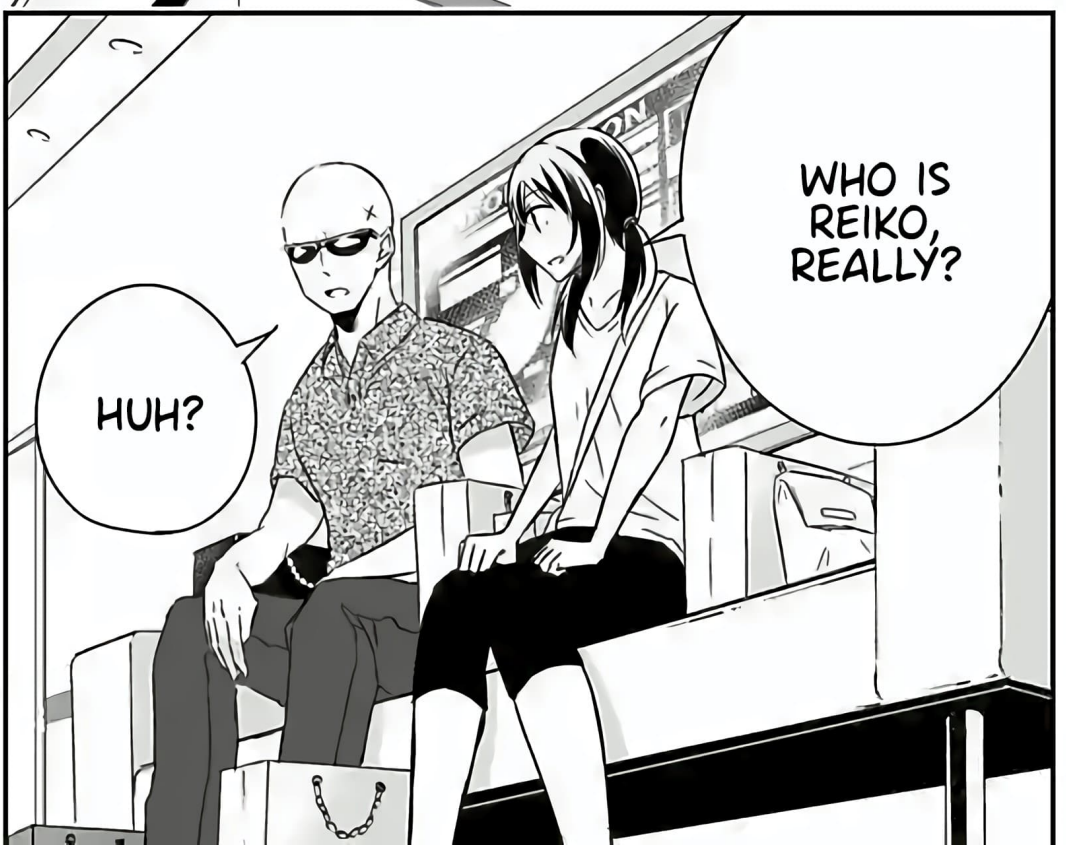
WE MADE YOU WAIT ALL THESE HOURS...
NOT A PROBLEM.

...


AFTER EVERYTHING, 80% OF THE SHOPPING WAS FOR REIKO.
YEAH ...
REIKO'S
REIKO'S
TSUKASA'S
REIKO'S
REIKO'S

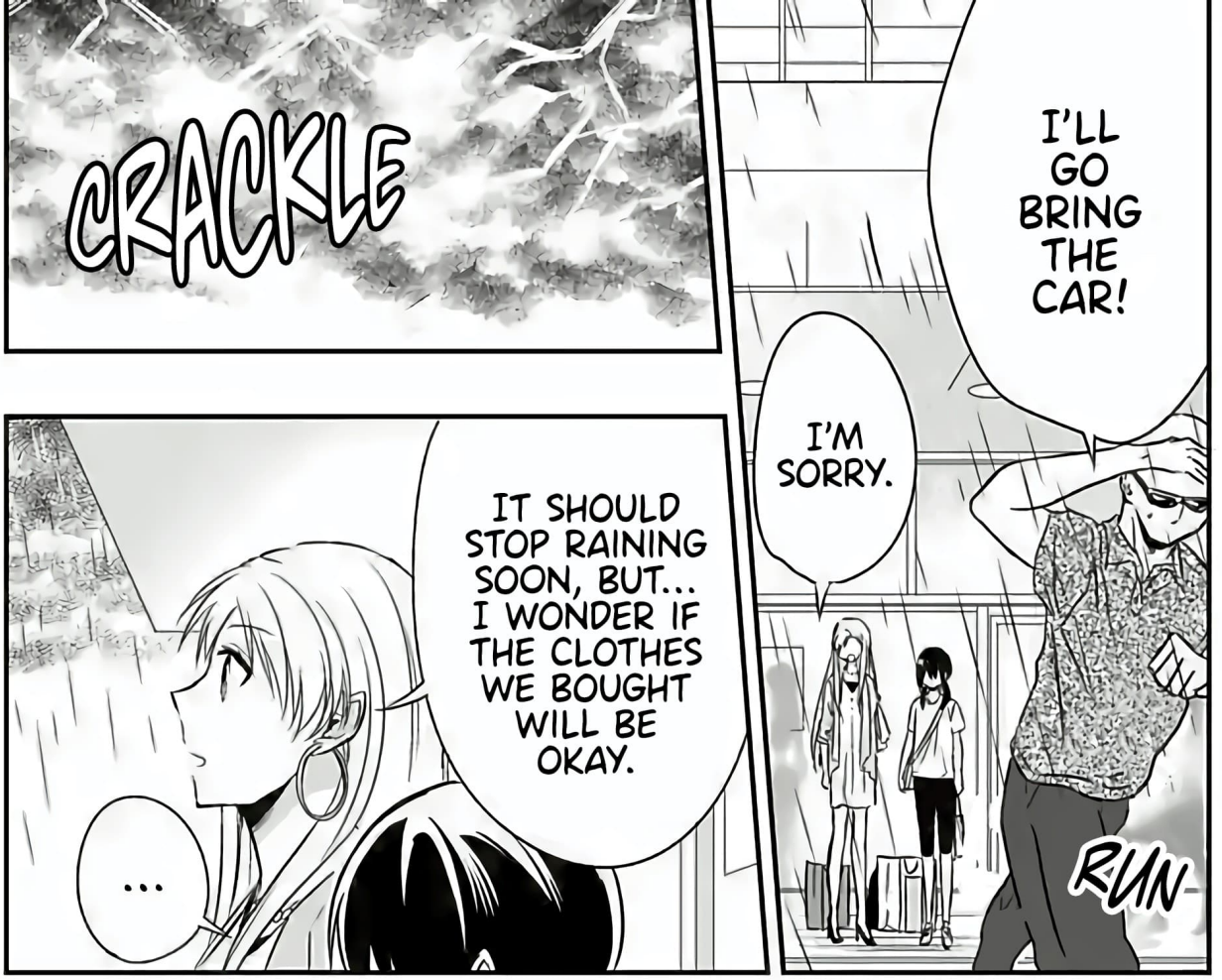

MAYBE I CAN ASK HIM...
MATSUDA.
YES?

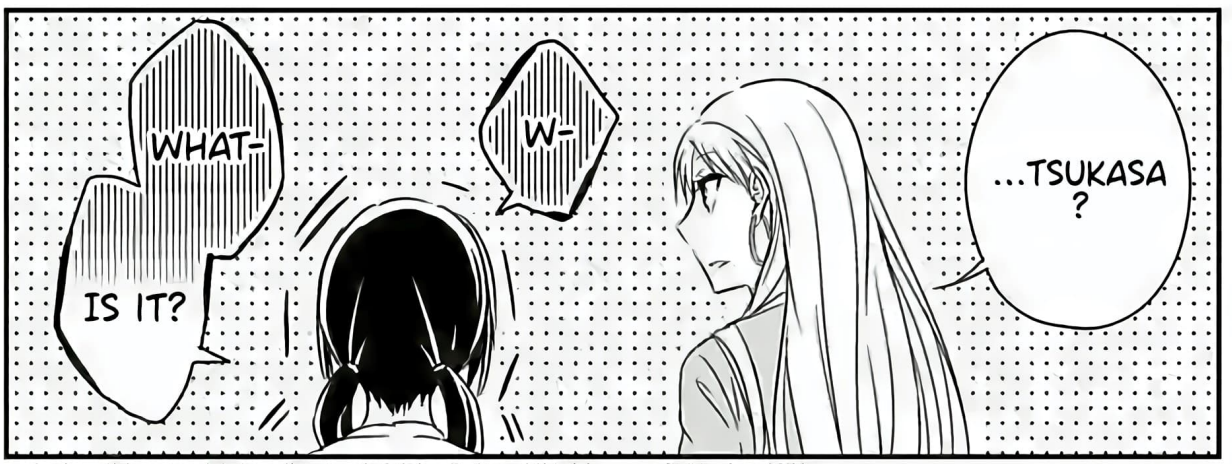

WHAT KIND OF QUESTION IS THAT?


HUH?
WHO IS REIKO, REALLY?

...
IT'S JUST THAT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HER.
FOR EXAMPLE, WHY SHE CHOSE THIS LINE OF WORK.
OR WHY SHE'S SO STRONG.
OR WHY SHE'S KIND TO ME.
URGH.
YOU'RE GETTING MORE ANNOYING.
...
THANKS FOR WAITING ...
!
WELL,
EVEN I DON'T KNOW ALL THE DETAILS,
BUT...

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE YOU REMIND HER OF HERSELF FROM A LONG TIME AGO.
HUH?
TSUKASA, LET'S GO!
OH... YEAH.
OKAY, LET'S HEAD TO THE NEXT ONE.
YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP SHOPPING?
HOW REIKO WAS A LONG TIME AGO...?
GLOOM
URGH ...
I UNDERSTAND LESS AND LESS...

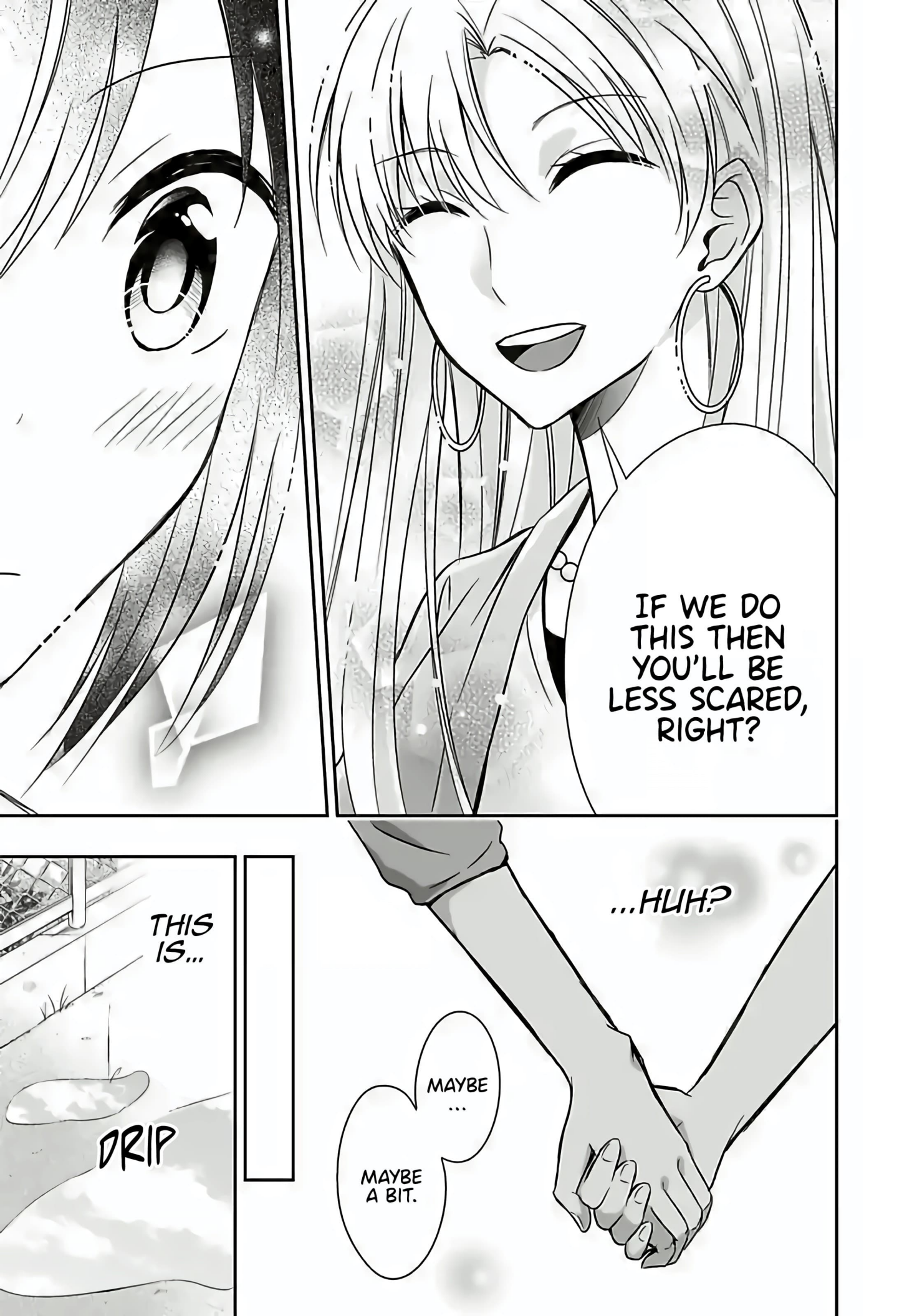

CRACKLE
I'LL GO BRING THE CAR!
I'M SORRY.
RUN
IT SHOULD STOP RAINING SOON, BUT... I WONDER IF THE CLOTHES WE BOUGHT WILL BE OKAY.
...


...TSUKASA?
W-
WHAT-
IS IT?

...
DON'T TELL ME...

CRACKLE
AAAAH!
DOES THE THUNDER SCARE YOU?
TREMBLE
S-SO? W-WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
IT'S NOT THAT...
...I LOOK LIKE A LITTLE GIRL.

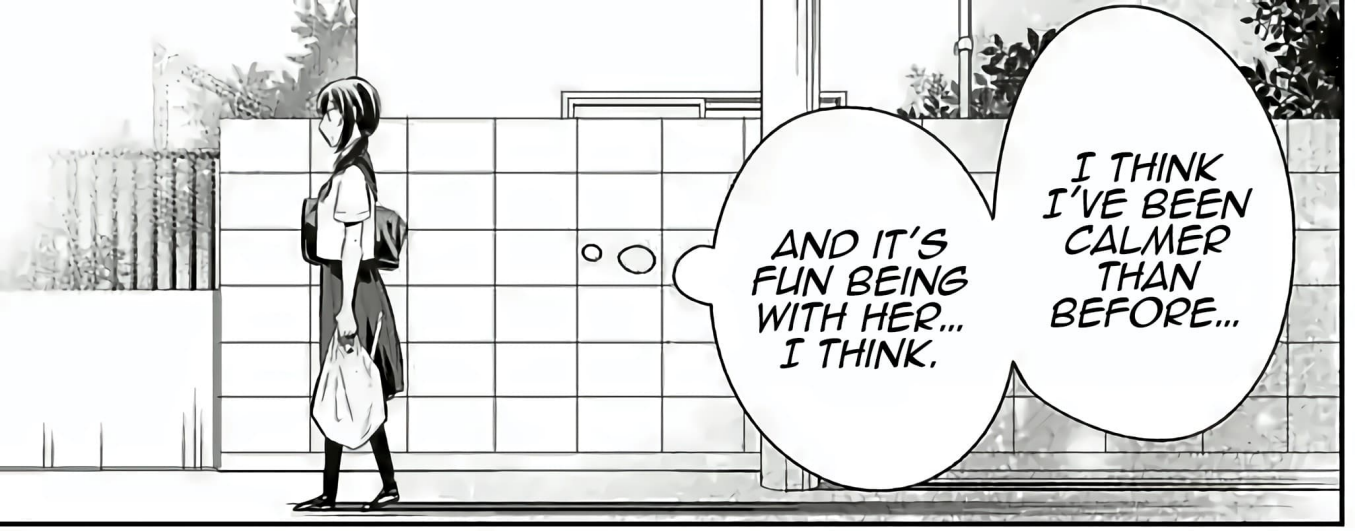
THERE ARE ALSO SOME THINGS THAT SCARE ME.
...
REIKO?
BUT...


IF WE DO THIS THEN YOU'LL BE LESS SCARED, RIGHT?
...HUH?
MAYBE ...
MAYBE A BIT.
THIS IS...
DRIP

ARE THEY OKAY?
YEAH.
NOT TOO BAD, JUST GOTTA DRY THEM FIRST.
MEOW
I SEE. WHAT LUCK.
...
IT'S WIERD...
MY HEART...
IT WON'T CALM DOWN.
HEY, TSUKASA!

I SAW YOU AT THE MALL YESTERDAY!
HEY, DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
SO...YOU WERE OUT SHOPPING TOO, KANNA?
LET'S SEE...WHAT EXCUSE DID I HAVE FOR REIKO?
SHE SAW US?
HUH?
WHO'S THAT BLONDE YOU WERE WITH?
OH! SO THAT WAS IT!
HIT
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE DIDN'T SEE MATSUDA WITH US.
SHE'S IN TOKYO FOR WORK STUFF, SO SHE'LL BE STAYING WITH ME FOR A WHILE.
SHE'S MY DISTANT COUSIN.

I'M ONLY SAYING THAT 'CAUSE YOU'VE BEEN SMILING MORE THESE DAYS. I'M GLAD...
SHE MUST BE SOMEONE INCREDIBLY BEAUTIFUL, RIGHT?
HUH...?
YOU THINK SO?
YEAH!
...
MAYBE IT IS TRUE...


I THINK I'VE BEEN CALMER THAN BEFORE...
AND IT'S FUN BEING WITH HER... I THINK.

MAYBE ...
I'LL COOK SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR HER TODAY.

HUH?
DID REIKO COME HOME EARLY TODAY...?

CLOSE

TSUKASA
...
WHAT...
STEP
DROP
DAD...!
WHY...?

EMPTY
!
HEY...
THE BAGS THAT WERE HERE...
I'M SORRY FOR MAKING YOU GO THROUGH ALL THIS UP UNTIL NOW.
REST ASSURED...
THOSE DEBT COLLECTORS WON'T BE COMING BACK.